

The Brackett News



High School Awards Program
2:00 pm Friday

14th year, No. 15

Serving the communities of Brackettville, Fort Clark Springs, Spofford and Kinney County

1 Section, 8 Pages

Kinney County becomes newest member of CIRA

On May 13, 2002 County Commissioners executed an interlocal agreement to become a member of the County Information Resources Agency (CIRA).

Until recently, each county has been on their own when it comes to technology and information resources with no centralized coordination or planning on the state level. Acting as a central technology information resource for county government, CIRA will work to coordinate with state agencies in the planning and deployment of new programs involving the use of technology.

CIRA was a result of recommendations from the Texas Association of Counties' E-County Task Force after more than a year of studying and discussing technology issues facing counties. The Task Force is made up of representatives of each of the county officials' organizations, county information technology employees, representatives from various state agencies and staff from the Texas Association

of Counties and its technical consultants.

"This is a proactive step in getting Kinney County the resources it needs to expand on-line services to our constituents," said Herb Senne, judge of Kinney County. "It is also a way for county governments to work together to take advantage of new technologies that have quickly become a comenplace part of our everyday lives."

CIRA long range objectives (dependent on funding) also include:

- Hosting county web pages and citizen-to government applications that interface with the state portal -- Texas Online;
- Providing on-line services and applications such as financial accounting and reporting systems, and
- Building a "virtual county network" that ties all of the counties together allowing them to securely exchange data and information among each other and with the state.

The County Information Resources Agency is an interlocal

governmental entity created under the provisions of the Interlocal Cooperation Act and supported by the Texas Association of Counties. There is no cost for a county to be a member.

The regular meeting of the Kinney County Commissioners Court was held at 9:00 am on Monday, May 13th, 2002.

Commissioners Francie Wylie, Joe Montalvo and Pat Melancon were present. Commissioner Nat Terrazas was absent.

Justice of the Peace John Ford discussed the possible implementation of the Omnibase Services collection program. Omnibase Services has the contract with the Texas Department of Public Safety to provide the services for the Failure to Appear Program.

The Failure to Appear Program was created by the 74th Legislature as an additional tool for political subdivisions to enhance their collections from traffic violations. The program administered by TDPS provides an

alternative for cities and counties who have misdemeanor offenders who do not appear to answer charges against them. The program was expanded in 1999 by the Legislature to include any Class C misdemeanor. The expansion of the program has been especially popular with counties as it now

permits bad checks and other Class C misdemeanors to be included in the program. The program was further enhanced last year to add failures to pay or satisfy judgements. By entering into an agreement with the TDPS, cities and counties are able to restrict the offender's

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Briefs ...

Awards Dinner

The BHS Athletic Awards Dinner is Thursday, May 23rd. Serve - 6:30 p.m., Awards - 7:30 p.m., at the Kinney County Civic Center.

Tickets are available at the Central Office, Field House, or from Booster Officers. Will cost more at the door.

Awards Picnic

The Brackett Jr. High will have an Athletic Awards Picnic, on Monday, May 20th 4-6pm at Ft. Clark Swim Park.

Fund Raiser

On Saturday, May 18, 2002 the Kinney County 4-H Club will be having a Bake Sale and Car Wash fund raiser in the parking lot of Pico. The Bake Sale will begin at 6:00 a.m. and end at 10:00 a.m. While the car wash will begin at 10:00 a.m. and end at 2:00 p.m. Please come support our Fantastic 4-H Club.

Music Recital

The piano and voice students of Lynn McNew will be presented in recital on Sunday, May 19, 2002, at 2:30 p.m. in the Calvary Room at Las Moras Restaurant.

Participating in the recital will be voice students: Jackie Duncan, Timmeke Simmons and Brooke Bowlin; as well as piano students Cody Clark, Chris Blake, Abby Gutierrez, Joshua Klusek, Whitney Hobbs, Katie Bowlin, Brooke Bowlin, Crissy Gomez, Cassandra Gomez, Ward Kerr, Banner Kerr, Heather Baggett and Timmeke Simmons. Refreshments will be served and the public is invited to attend.

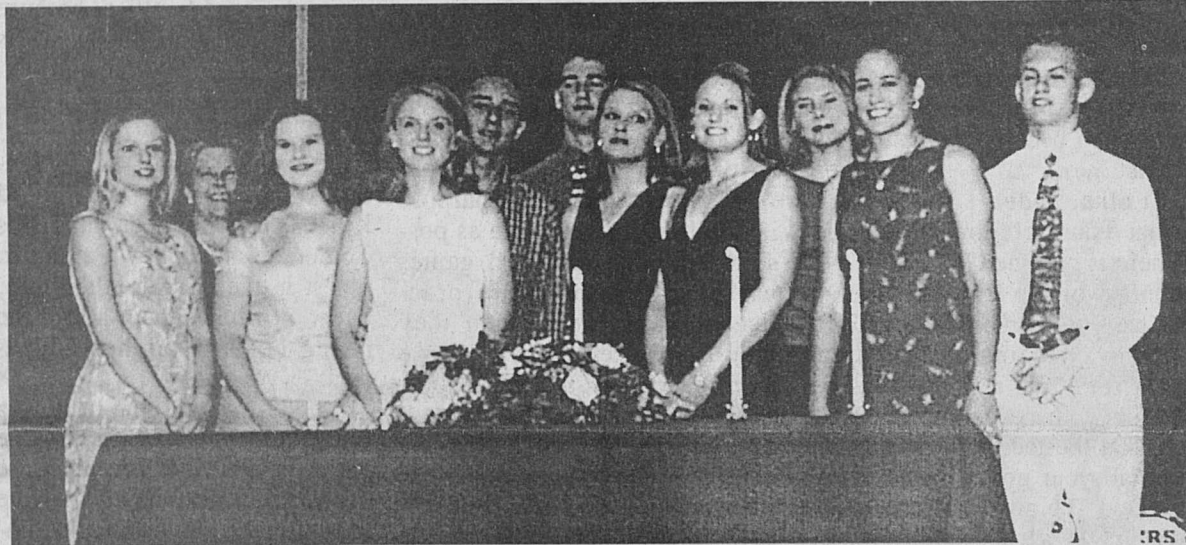
Bible School

The First Baptist Church is holding Vacation Bible School June 10th - 14th.

Kindergarten Roundup

May 22, 2002 at Jones Elementary 12:00, in room 18. For parents (no children) of incoming kindergarten students. Register your child, find out what is expected, and helpful hints to be ready for kindergarten.

National Honor Society Induction Ceremony



Pledge members for the 2001-2002 school year are from left: Candace Ingram, NHS Sponsor Cindy Brandt, Amanda Ward, Michelle Bizzell, Rudy Ramirez, Levi Duncan, Erica Meyer, Susannah Davis, Sarah Gammill, Duquesa Hunt and Lee Davis. Not pictured Stephanie Gomez.

The Induction Ceremony of the Brackett High School National Honor Society was held on Thursday, May 09, 2002, at 7:00 p.m. in the high school auditorium. Lee Davis, President, was Master of Ceremonies. Officers for the 2001-2002 school year are: Lee Davis, President, Duquesa Hunt, Vice-President, Susannah Davis, Secretary, Rudy Ramirez, Treasurer and Levi Duncan, Reporter.

Pledge members for the 2001-2002 school year are: Michelle Bizzell, Lee Davis,

Susannah Davis, Levi Duncan, Sarah Gammill, Stephanie Gomez, Duquesa Hunt, Candace Ingram, Erica Meyer, Rudy Ramirez and Amanda Ward.

Probationary members for the 2001-2002 school year and tonight's inductees into the National Honor Society are: Kami Berg, Diamantina Flores, Migdalia Gonzalez, Jared Hobbs, Megan McWilliams, Maria Martinez, Coshena Meyer, Laura Negrete, Jose Pineda, Isela Ramon, Doug

Sanchez, T.D. Smith, Tammy Smith, Eliot Stone and Elizabeth Threadgill

Probationary members for the 2002-2003 school year introduced during tonight's program: Beth Ballew, Stephanie Coronado, Amanda Davis, Dietrich Davis, Hector Febres, Stacey Castilla, Chestin Clark, Sarah Meyer, Pedro Pacheco, Emily Petrosky, Arnold Pinales, Ashley Smith, Trey Smith, Blanca Talamantes, Ashley Thourot, Beau Watkins and Eli Woolsey.

Local 2nd grader soon to be published

A 2nd grader at Jones Elementary will soon become a published author.

Francisca Flores a student in Mary Ellen Fuentes' class wrote a poem about drugs.

Fuentes submitted the poem, along with several others, to Texas Rising Star an elementary writing publication. Francisca's poem was selected for publication.

Monday night at the BISD Board of Directors meeting Francisca was presented a medal and a certificate of achievement.

Her parents are Joe Louis Flores, Jr. and Sandra Flores.



Francisca Flores

Gutierrez retires from Union Pacific



Pictured above: Ramon Gutierrez Jr. and co-workers.

Ramon B. Gutierrez Jr. was born in the Las Moras Section House in Kinney County in 1940. He is the son of the late Ramon Gutierrez Senior and Genoveva Gutierrez. Ramon grew up in Spofford, Texas and was a graduate of Brackett High School in 1960. Soon after graduation, he was drafted into the United States Army where he served for 2 years. In 1966 he decided to follow in his dad's footsteps and join Southern Pacific Railroad Company as a Machine Operator. He has been

totally dedicated to his job since. In 2000 he was recognized for his commitment to the Union Pacific Safety Program and for remaining injury free for 33 years. Now, after 36 years of service he has decided to retire from Union Pacific and spend some time with his wife Lorenza Gutierrez, his son Ramon Gutierrez III, his daughter Jessica Gutierrez, and grandchildren Ramon Gutierrez IV, Abigail Gutierrez, and Rolando Gutierrez. Congratulations Dad!

Judge Lee speaks to Rotarians about Texas History

By Frances McMaster
Contributing Writer

Tino Guzman, May Program Chairman for the Brackettville Rotary Club, presented guest speaker District Judge Tom Lee at the May 9, meeting.

Lee began his remarks by saying that May 1, was Law Day, and this should remind us to recognize and appreciate the wonderful system of government we have. It is based on the inalienable rights people have as citizens of a nation founded on the Constitution.

Judge Lee said that, by the same token, Texas is great. It was formed by magnificent men, declared its independence, and eventually got a constitution of its own. That constitution is not static, but constantly changes as we learn more about how free men should live.

Texas is one of the United States, but concepts on which it was formed are different from other states. Its judicial system evolved out of its unique history. Spain claimed Texas in 1619, and some of the Spanish judicial system is still reflected in Texas laws.

Lee explained that Spain wanted Texas because it hoped to find mineral riches in this vast land, but when this did not materialize, Texas remained much like an unsettled territory. In the late 1600s, the Louisiana Purchase influenced Spain to attempt to colonize Texas by offering land grants. It also built Missions, planning to use them as center-points to bring people to colonize Texas, but this did not prove successful.

In Spain, the king owned the land, (not the government), and he had the right to grant land to people who paid for it, or to those he wished to pay for political favors, or for other reasons.

Moses and Stephen F. Austin were among certain Americans given grants. Moses Austin brought 300 families to Texas in 1819. Each family was given a town lot, farmland, pastureland, and exemption from certain taxes. The families had to settle the land to claim it. These grants are recognized under our law.

When Texas became a republic, the Congress of the Republic of Texas adopted English

Common law, but it also kept much of the Spanish Civil Law System, which makes our legal system different from other states.

Judge Lee mentioned a number of areas where Texas law differs. One is in the area of submerged land. The Spanish king owned riverbeds, and the State of Texas now owns all navigable streams. It owns 10.4 miles of tidelands where other states only own 3 miles.

Community property is a Spanish concept. Common law is based on the Norman tradition, where women were treated like property. In Texas, women were highly valued assets in settling the state, and Texas originated the homestead law to protect families from having property taken away from them. Many states followed suite. In 1997, the law was amended to broaden the application of the homestead exemption.

Texas operated under a codified system of laws and government reflecting the Spanish, French, and Mexican systems until it became a republic in 1845. A State constitution was written based on Common Law.

The Constitution had to be rewritten and approved by Congress when Texas became part of the United States.

Texas law reflects a belief in limited government. Probably no other state in the Union takes such a strong stance. The authority is to remain as close to the people as possible. In frontier days, the District Judge would ride the circuit by horseback or buggy, trying cases. The transportation is different,

but the pattern of movement remains.

Judge Lee is a Rotarian, as is his wife Carol, who was also our guest; the Brackettville Club enjoyed having them visit, and particularly hearing Judge Lee's presentation.

Writer's Note: The speaker in last week's column was Sergeant David Morgan not Martin. My apologies to Sergeant Morgan.



Picture from left May Program Chairman Rotarian Tino Guzman and District Judge Tom Lee.

INSIDE

■ The way I see it!

Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." NIV. The opposite is also true. Think about it!
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■ Empowering Families

Long ago a very wise man said that children who listen to their father will gain long life and forgiveness of sins. The father in turn gains honor. It is God who sets a father over his children for their good (Sirach 3:1-16).
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■ Making a difference

There are 3 weeks of school left. This is a time to talk with children about keeping their priorities focused. What we learn and grades are important factors in the academic world.
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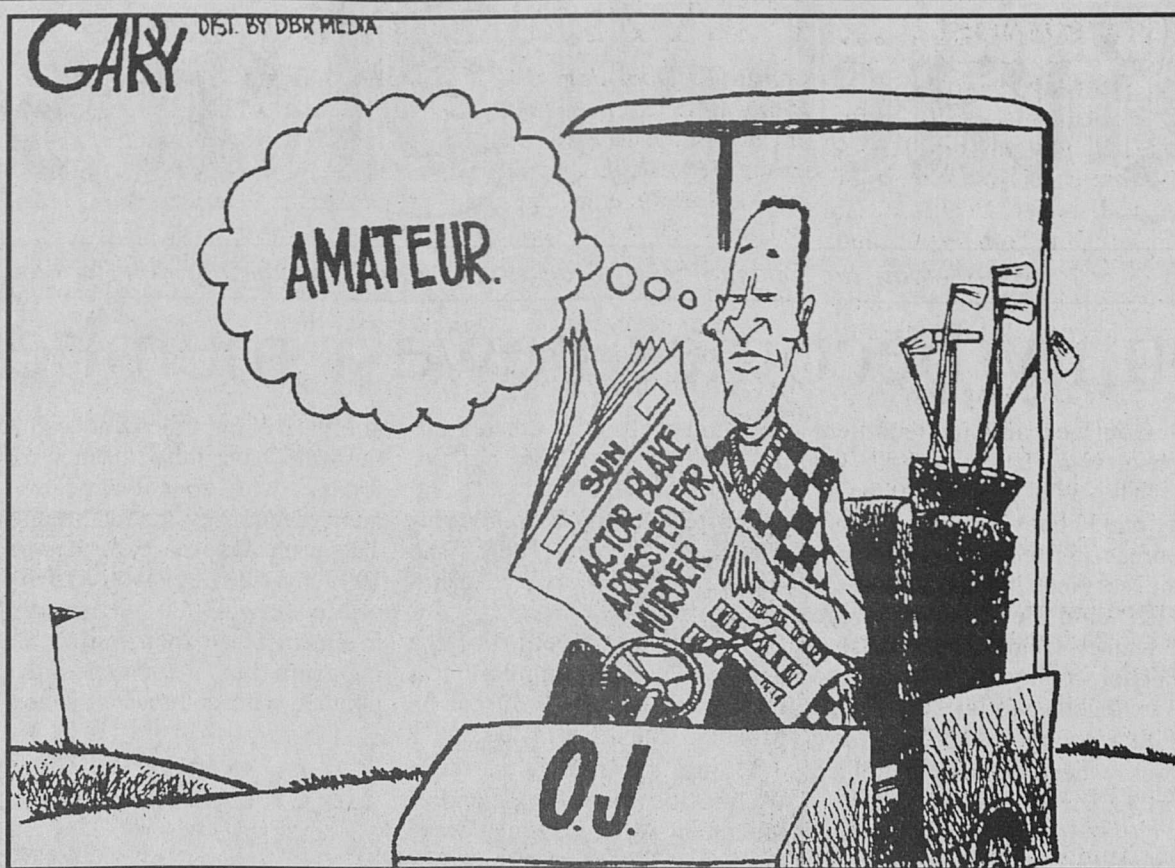
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Still rambling

I could be wrong
By Chuck Hall

I put up rain gutters on part of my back roofline. Don't ask me why. I know it sounds crazy to put up devices to rechannel run-off rainwater during the middle of a drought. I'm optimistic. I don't think we're in the middle of a dry spell. I think it's almost over. In fact, by the time this gets printed, it could have ended. Is it just me or are gas pumps slower than they used to be? It seems to me like they pump much slower now than even a year or so ago. It takes longer to fill the car than it used to. I think it's a plot. Not by the local distributors but by someone on the national level. I have this theory that they want us to wait longer on the fuel so we'll value it more. Their desire is for us to really think we're getting

our moneys worth. They hope we actually appreciate the extra few minutes waiting for the precious liquid to disperse into the tank. You know what? It works. On me at least. I am grateful for the service provided by the petroleum industry. Yep, I'm happy to spend another minute or two just to get mobility. I enjoy being able to drive when I want to, where I want to and stay gone as long as I want to. To me, it's one of the greatest freedoms we enjoy in this magnificent land of ours. Traveling around our country, or just our county, and meeting other folks and sharing thoughts, is a right that must never be taken away. Even at the cost of a lot of money and a lot of time spent waiting on gas, I always want to have the luxury of being able to operate my truck. But I could be wrong.



Train a child in the way he should go

The Way I See It
By Steven R. LaMascus

Lucas John Helder, the college student who confessed to putting pipe bombs in mailboxes all across the Upper Midwest, says he was trying to make a smiley face appear on a map. Just when I think I've heard it all something else even weirder and more malignant pops up to surprise me.

Tell me this: How many of you think that Helder was just a poor misguided child, who was probably abused by his father, that needs understanding and sympathy instead of death by stoning?

Now, how many of you think he is an evil little demon who deserves the severest punishment allowed? I guess you know where I stand on the issue!

This is a perfect example of what happens when God is removed from our society and our education system. This inhuman piece of garbage was not misguided, he was possessed by Satan. Anyone who does not believe in possession by demons needs to rethink their ideas. There is no other explanation for the actions of people like Helder, and the Columbine murderers, and many more.

The number of such demonic acts is growing every day. No human, even a mentally deranged human, could or would perpetrate such depraved acts. It is simply inconceivable to the human mind.

I don't know anything about Helder, and I've seen nothing in the news about his religious background, but I'll bet dollars to mesquite beans that he was not a Christian. I'll go even further by postulating that he liked computer killing games and dabbled in the occult.

How many times do we have to see this trend come to fruition to grasp the concept that there is a direct correlation between these mystic computer games, occult/magic/mystical mind games like Dungeons and Dragons, goddess family lives and the demonic, malignant deeds of these soulless trolls. Every time, without any exception that I am aware of, the same history is revealed. Look at John Walker. A liberal family life that allowed him to explore his own "religious needs," a mother who couldn't decide if she was Christian or Buddhist, a broken home, and suddenly you have a social cripple who thinks the proper course of action is to become a Muslim terrorist.

Folks, I don't give a hoot what your religious needs are! There is but one God; and if you don't worship Him and His Son Jesus, you worship Satan. There are no other options! You can look for "the religion that best fulfills your needs" until you are blue in the face and gray-haired and all your gonna find is Satan or God. To put it as simply and succinctly as possible, "yer either fer us, or agin us."

I think we are fast approaching the time when everyone will have to make the decision to follow God or follow Satan. I don't see how the world can continue in its exponential rush to damnation for much longer. God destroyed Sodom and Gomorrah for doing precisely the same things we are doing today.

What makes us think we are better than they were? Oh, yeah, I forgot. You don't believe that myth, do you? "The Bible is not history, but just a compilation of fictional stories intended to teach an antiquated

form of religious morality." People, I have news for you. Anyone who teaches that any part of the Bible is not actual and factual is wrong! You cannot pick and choose which parts of the Bible you are going to believe. You either believe it is the true, living, inviolable Word of God, or you don't believe it at all!

Now, if you don't want your children following in the slimy footprints of such shining products of liberalism as Walker and Helder, get them into a Christian church and teach them the Gospel. Spend an hour every evening reading the Bible with them instead of watching Beavis and Butthead on television. Control what they watch on television, keep them away from video games where the purpose is to kill as many people as possible and mystic board games where magic spells are practiced; spank them when they need it, and tell them you love them every day.

We have taken God out of our society. The only way we are going to survive is to put Him back into it. Like Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." NIV. The opposite is also true. Think about it!

I have a tee-shirt with the logo C.O.P.S. "Christians Obediently Preaching Salvation - 'Whatcha gonna do when He comes for you?'" Well, what're you gonna do?

Psalms 51: 10-12 - "Create in me a pure heart, O God, and renew a steadfast spirit within me. Do not cast me from your presence or take your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and grant me a willing spirit, to sustain me." NIV

Battle of San Jacinto

Capitol Comment
By Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

Each year Texans commemorate the Battle of San Jacinto - an 18 minute battle fought on April 21, 1836, that secured Texas' independence from Mexico and changed the course of American history.

We Texans love to reflect on our rich heritage and San Jacinto Day is no exception. The official state of Texas celebration takes place at the San Jacinto Battleground State Historical Park.

This year, thousands of Texans attended the festivities, which included a reenactment of the battle and a reading of General Sam Houston's account of the events by his great-grandson, Sam Houston IV. Visitors from around the state and country gathered for the celebration, but some of the most special guests did not travel by land - they came by sea on the USS San Jacinto.

I was pleased that the United States Navy accepted my invitation to take part in this year's San Jacinto Day celebration. In April, the USS San Jacinto docked in the Houston Ship

Channel in honor of the 166th anniversary of the battle.

The Navy christens its battleships with the names of important historical figures, heroes and key American battles. The USS San Jacinto, the third ship in the Navy to bear the name of this important battle, pays homage to the rich legacy of Texas while serving as a beacon of American military might.

The first ship to carry the name of the battle was an early experimental, propeller-driven warship, commissioned in 1851. The second was a light aircraft carrier that saw extensive combat in the Pacific during World War II.

The current USS San Jacinto, an Aegis cruiser, was commissioned on January 23, 1988, in Houston by Vice President Bush. The ship's motto, "Victory is Certain," is a quotation from General Sam Houston's speech to his outnumbered men before the battle.

The ship has docked at the Port of Houston four times previously, but this year's arrival marked the first time the visit has coincided with the annual San Jacinto Day festivities. The highlight of the program was a re-

enlistment ceremony for 10 crew members conducted by Captain John MacKercher Jr. on the steps of the San Jacinto Monument.

Since its commissioning, the USS San Jacinto has served our country with distinction - the ship is equipped with the most advanced naval weapons system in the world. Aegis, a computerized, quick reaction air defense system, provides extraordinary capabilities against attacking aircraft and missiles. Texans are justifiably proud of the heritage of the USS San Jacinto, her strong ties to the state and the dedication of the crew members who serve daily in harm's way.

As our nation is once again at war to defend freedom and democracy, we share an even deeper appreciation for the men and women of the USS San Jacinto and the entire United States Military.

Texans will forever celebrate the great struggles for independence that mark our state's history. Those battles paved the way for the freedoms we enjoy today and the USS San Jacinto and her crew help keep that rich history alive.

Deadline approaching

By Tracy King
Texas State Representative

Austin—State Rep. King reported today that the deadline for the current enrollment period in the Texas Tomorrow Fund is May 24th, 2002. Texas parents have less than one month left to lock in the future cost of their children's tuition at this year's prices for Texas colleges and universities.

"I encourage families to take advantage of the opportunity to lock in today's college prices," said King. Rep. King said that the Texas Legislature created the fully guaranteed prepaid tuition program to enable families to secure a child's future college education costs.

Regardless of what happens to the cost of tuition, enrollees are guaranteed that their full tuition and required fees are paid, explained Rep. King. The Texas Tomorrow Fund allows parents to enroll their children at any age.

Regardless of when their child will enter college, parents pay today's cost of a college education, said Rep. King. The younger a child is enrolled, the lower the payments will be. For example, for a newborn, a four-year college plan costs \$15,131 as a one time payment or \$132 a month until high school graduation, explained Rep. King. This represents a substantial savings for Texas families, because by the time a newborn starts college, tuition and fees are expected to cost over \$60,000, said Rep. King.

"Texas' should take advantage of this program," said King. "Not only does the Texas Tomorrow fund allow Parents to invest in their children's future, but it also helps them afford the rising costs of higher education."

Rep. King said that there is a great deal of flexibility in the program. Families can purchase contracts for public and private four-year universities and junior and community colleges. Families also have the choice of buying contracts covering tuition from one to five years and have several payment options including, annual or monthly payments, automatic bank drafts or payroll deductions, said Rep. King.

Parents are not selecting a specific school or limiting their child's choices in future college decisions by enrolling a child in the Texas Tomorrow Fund, said Rep. King.

Fund enrollees are able to transfer their benefits to out-of-state colleges or universities, and if for any reason a child does not go to college, parents may receive a refund, explained Rep. King.

For more information on the Texas Tomorrow Fund or to get an application, Rep. King encourages those interested to visit the program's website or call their toll-free assistance hotline at 1-800-445-GRAD (4723).

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words. The editor reserves the right to refuse or edit all letters submitted for length, potentially libelous statements and accuracy of information. All letters must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification purposes. All writers must provide proof of identity. Letters published and viewpoints of columnists do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

Big Mama Sez!

Each of us shines in a different way, but this doesn't make our light less bright.

The Brackett News

Member of

ADDRESS: Editorial and publication offices are at 507 S. Ann St., Brackettville, TX, 78832. Ph: (830) 563-2852. Fax: (830) 563-9538, email: tbnews@comwerx.net.

PERSONNEL: Publisher: Jewel Robinson Office Manager: Dimple Henry; Staff Writer: Steve LaMascus; Typist: Maria Alicia Duran; Typist: Kathy Wilson; Ad Salesperson: Becky Tuck

USPS 003987 Published weekly on Thursday by The Brackett News. Entered as Second Class Matter at the U.S. Post Office at Brackettville, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to P.O. Box 1039, Brackettville, 78832.

DEADLINES: Advertising deadline is noon Tuesday for advertising to be composed for the current publication.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the pages of The Brackett News will gladly be corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

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Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Tuesday, May 7
8:45 p.m., EMS radioed to report loose cattle on Hwy 131 south. Deputy Karl Chism responded.

Wednesday, May 8
8:00 p.m., A woman reported two boys looking in her car. Deputy Manuel Pena Jr. was notified.
8:29 p.m., A woman reported her neighbor was burning trash and smoke was getting in her house. Deputy Pena responded.

Thursday, May 9
3:45 p.m., A man reported an intoxicated person. Sheriff Buddy Burgess and Deputy Guidry responded.
3:45 p.m., Benjamin Tovar, from Brackettville, was arrested for public intoxication by Deputy Bobby Guidry. Tovar was released on Sunday for time served.

Friday, May 10
8:57 p.m., Maverick County advised they had one female on Hwy 1908. Deputy Pena, Deputy Chism and Border Patrol were all advised.

Saturday, May 11
2:12 a.m., A 911 call was received. A woman reported a one vehicle roll over west of town on Hwy 90. Deputy Pena, DPS Trooper Tom Wylie and TxDOT were all advised.
9:42 a.m., Deputy Larry Robinson responded to kids with knives.

Sunday, May 12
8:21 a.m., Deputy Chism responded to marijuana found in the bathroom at a local store.
4:46 p.m., Deputy Chism and DPS Trooper Tony Ashley responded to a two vehicle accident on Hwy 90 west by Pinto Creek. EMS and TxDOT were notified.
8:30 p.m., A man reported a possible deceased person. Justice of the Peace, Deputy Manuel Pena Sr. and EMS were all notified.

Monday, May 13
6:17 a.m., Chief of Police Arnulfo Alonzo and Deputy Welch responded to a two vehicle accident on Hwy 90 at the stop light. EMS, Fire Department and TxDOT were advised.

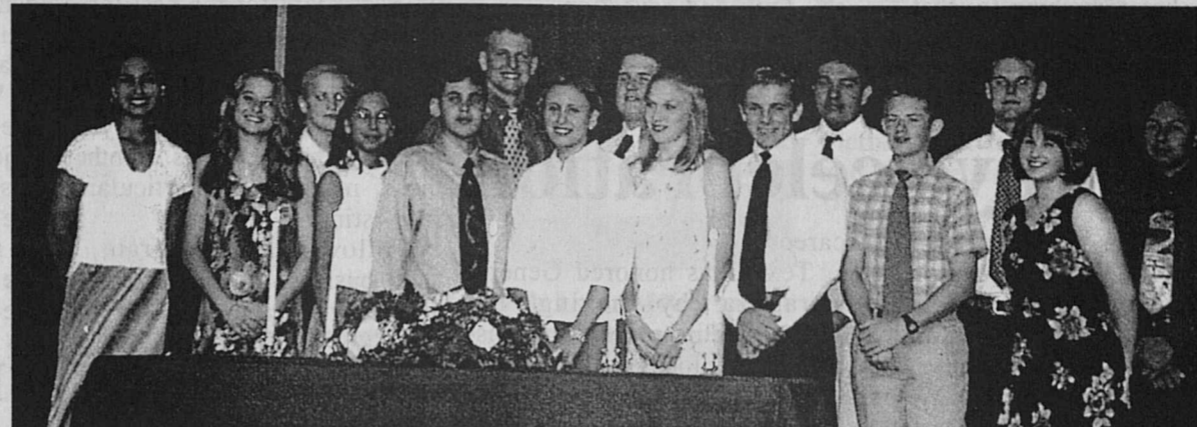
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ability to renew his or her drivers license. The FTA Program is intended to compliment existing local enforcement programs and does not require a change from current procedures. For example, the city or county can continue to issue warrants, write letters to offenders or use services of a collection agency, if desired.

Since the FTA program became operational in late 1996,

more than 550 jurisdictions (425 cities and 125 counties) have entered into contracts with TDPS and more than 1.4 million offenses have been entered into the FTA database. More than 61% of the offenses have already been cleared by disposition which means the violator has contacted the reporting court and resolved the outstanding violations. This usually includes the collection of fines and

court costs for the participating court. The FTA program is intended to get the violators back before the court to resolve their violations.

There is no cost for a city or county to enter into an FTA agreement but it will require an appropriate computer and a modem to participate in the program. It also requires access to a long distance telephone line. No action was taken.



Probationary NHS members for the 2002-2003 school year (not in order): Beth Ballew, Stephanie Coronado, Amanda Davis, Dietrich Davis, Hector Febres, Stacey Castilla, Chestin Clark, Sarah Meyer, Pedro Pacheco, Emily Petrosky, Arnold Pinales, Ashley Smith, Trey Smith, Blanca Talamantes, Ashley Thourot, Beau Watkins and Eli Woolsey.

It's a Boy



David Gene Sargeant, III (Trey) was born May 11, in Alpine.

His proud parents are David and Lana Sargeant. His grandparents are Hoss Cartwright, Joe & Janet Gieseke, Cheryl & Billy Nelson, and David & Helen Sargeant.

His great grandparents are Jewel Robinson, Tommy & Jean Sargeant and Chester & Pherba Wilson.

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| | |
|---|--|
| <p>2002 SUNFIRE SE</p> <p>PONTIAC DRIVING EXCITEMENT</p> <p>MSRP \$17,530 Rebate \$3,000 Brown Disc. \$1,035</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">\$13,495*</p> <p>APR as low as 1.9% SAVE OVER \$4,000</p> | <p>2002 PARK AVENUE</p> <p>BUICK</p> <p>MSRP \$36,032 Rebate \$3,000 Brown Disc. \$3,037</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">\$29,995*</p> <p>APR as low as 1.9% SAVE OVER \$6,000</p> |
| <p>2002 SIERRA REG CAB</p> <p>GMC We Are Professional Grade™</p> <p>MSRP \$20,708 Rebate \$2,000 Brown Disc. \$1,713</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">\$16,995*</p> <p>APR as low as 1.9% SAVE OVER \$3,700</p> | <p>2002 YUKON SLE</p> <p>GMC We Are Professional Grade™</p> <p>MSRP \$34,716 Rebate \$2,000 Brown Disc. \$2,721</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">\$29,995*</p> <p>APR as low as 1.9% SAVE OVER \$4,700</p> |
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| <p>2002 GRAND PRIX SE</p> <p>PONTIAC DRIVING EXCITEMENT</p> <p>MSRP \$22,285 Rebate \$2,000 Brown Disc. \$1,290</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">\$18,995*</p> <p>APR as low as 1.9% SAVE OVER \$3,200</p> | <p>2002 DEVILLE</p> <p>MSRP \$44,430 Rebate \$1,000 Brown Disc. \$3,435</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">\$39,995*</p> <p>APR as low as 1.9% SAVE OVER \$4,400</p> |
| <p>2002 CENTURY CUSTOM</p> <p>BUICK</p> <p>MSRP \$22,647 Rebate \$2,000 Brown Disc. \$1,652</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">\$18,995*</p> <p>APR as low as 1.9% SAVE OVER \$3,600</p> | <p>2002 SEVILLE SLS</p> <p>MSRP \$45,844 Rebate \$2,000 Brown Disc. \$3,849</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">\$39,995*</p> <p>APR as low as 1.9% SAVE OVER \$5,800</p> |
| <p>2002 LESABRE CUSTOM</p> <p>BUICK</p> <p>MSRP \$26,379 Rebate \$3,000 Brown Disc. \$2,384</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">\$20,995*</p> <p>APR as low as 1.9% SAVE OVER \$5,300</p> | <p>2002 ELDERADO ETC</p> <p>MSRP \$47,785 Rebate \$3,000 Brown Disc. \$3,790</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">\$40,995*</p> <p>APR as low as 1.9% SAVE OVER \$6,700</p> |
| <p>2002 SIERRA EXT CAB SLE</p> <p>GMC We Are Professional Grade™</p> <p>MSRP \$26,264 Rebate \$2,000 Brown Disc. \$2,269</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">\$21,995*</p> <p>APR as low as 1.9% SAVE OVER \$4,200</p> | <p>2002 ESCALADE EXT</p> <p>MSRP \$49,990 Rebate \$2,000 Brown Disc. \$3,000</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">\$44,990*</p> <p>APR as low as 1.9% SAVE OVER \$5,000</p> |
| <p>2002 BONNEVILLE SE</p> <p>PONTIAC DRIVING EXCITEMENT</p> <p>MSRP \$26,360 Rebate \$3,000 Brown Disc. \$1,365</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">\$21,995*</p> <p>APR as low as 1.9% SAVE OVER \$4,300</p> | <p>2002 ESCALADE</p> <p>MSRP \$49,480 Rebate \$1,000 Brown Disc. \$2,480</p> <p style="font-size: 24pt; font-weight: bold;">\$45,995*</p> <p>APR as low as 1.9% SAVE OVER \$3,400</p> |

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Long life and forgiveness Officers elected for Beta Epsilon Omicron Chapter

Empowering Families
By Dr. Donald Smith

"Terry, I need your help with something."

"I'm watching a movie on TV, Dad. Can't it wait till later?" Answered Terry, his voice failing to conceal the irritation he was feeling. "No, Son it can't wait. Please pull yourself away from the TV."

Reluctantly, Terry obeyed. "What is it Dad?"

"I'd planned to get the garage cleaned out today and Mom discovered a leak in the washing machine that has to be fixed. I can't do both so I need your help Son."

"Why can't the garage be put off till next weekend then you'll have time to do it?" Terry asked, proud of his quick thinking.

"When we put off things like that the situation only gets worse and it becomes more work. This is something that should've been done several weeks ago."

Thinking there might be something to be gained, Terry asked, "How much is it worth, Dad? I'll do it for an extra five in my allowance this week."

"Terry, this is not something anybody gets paid to do. It's something we do because we all share responsibility for having our home a neat place to live."

"Can I finish the movie first?" Terry asked.

"No, Son. The garage and the washing machine are most important right now. This is one of those times when we follow priorities, and our home comes first. I'll tell you what. We can do both jobs quicker if we work together on one and then the other. What do you think needs our attention first?"

"Well, probably the washing machine. I think Mom wants to wash our clothes. I guess we owe her something for that."

DRT joins in Cinco De Mayo celebration

Members of Caddell-Smith Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas joined in the local Cinco de Mayo parade. Members riding on the chapter's float were Agnes Vondy, Mary Seaver, Charlotte Corey, Louise Stone, and Pat McKelvy.

This commemorates the anniversary of the battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862, in which Mexican forces defeated the French, a victory considered key to the eventual withdrawal of the European power in 1867. The leader of the Mexican army in that battle was General Ignacio Zaragoza, who was born in Goliad, Texas but later moved to Mexico where he eventually followed an illustrious military

"You're right on both counts, Terry. Let's get after it."

Long ago a very wise man said that children who listen to their father will gain long life and forgiveness of sins. The father in turn gains honor. It is God who sets a father over his children for their good (Sirach 3:1-16). This column is brought to you by the St. Henry deOsso Family Project working in Brackettville to strengthen family, faith and education.

Glory Road In Progress

Rehearsals are underway for the Old Quarry production of "Glory Road" to be presented June 20-23 at the Old Quarry Amphitheater on Fort Clark Springs. Written by Kermit Hunter in 1986, "Glory Road" is the story of Fort Clark as an

Army Post from the mid 1800's to post World War II days. Plans are underway to include a re-enactment of Seminole Scouts Medal of Honor presentations. Individuals are still needed to be villagers, soldiers, and Indians. These are non-speaking roles, for people who would just like to be in costume and on stage. For more information, call 830/563-9229.

Sorority Meets

By Lynn McNew
Contributing Writer

Preceptor Theta Sigma Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met Monday, May 6, 2002, at the home of Janie Meredith.

Preceding the business meeting, Dianna Daniels presented an interesting and informative program on resuscitation therapy. She spent over twenty years in this field, including a number of years as an instructor.

President Arlys Simpson conducted a short business meeting. Plans for an exciting fundraiser

By Joyce Bergey
Contributing Writer

The May 9, 2002 meeting of the Mountain Laurel Garden Club was a pot-luck luncheon held at the home of Clara McCord with 20 members present.

Kevin Ellison, resident birder on Fort Clark for the past three summers, presented a wonderful program on the various birds on the Fort, and specifically the cowbird, whose habit of laying their eggs in the nests of other birds, makes them particularly interesting.

Following the program, a short business meeting was held and Ruby Cheaney, as outgoing

Goodies from G.G.

It won't be long till we will be eating more fresh fruits. So why not try frying some for next "Special" meal. What a treat!

Fruit Fritter Batter

1 1/4 cup flour, 1 cup white wine, 1 T sugar, 1 t. grated lemon peel 1/4 t. salt, 1 egg white 2 to 3 c. peeled, sliced raw apples, pears or bananas (or any fruit) sifted powdered sugar, oil or shortening for frying.

In medium bowl, combine first ingredients. Beat until smooth cover and refrigerate several hours. Just before using, beat egg white until stiff but not dry. Fold into batter. Pat fruit

President, thanked everyone whose dedication and cooperation contributed to a successful year for the Garden Club.

The following officers were installed for the 2002/2003 season: President Ella May Chambers, 1st Vice President Mary Jane Olsen, 2nd Vice President Sara Richhart, 3rd Vice President Rosie Mattingly, Secretary Shirley Hadsell and Treasurer Clara McCord.

When all business was completed, members relaxed and enjoyed a delicious array of salads, sandwiches and desserts in the beautiful and serene setting of Clara's back yard. This was the last meeting of the season for the Garden Club.

Goodies from G.G.

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In medium bowl, combine first ingredients. Beat until smooth cover and refrigerate several hours. Just before using, beat egg white until stiff but not dry. Fold into batter. Pat fruit

The Beta Epsilon Omicron Chapter of the Beta Sigma Phi met May 9th in the home of Mona Miller. Nine members were present.

After opening the meeting, President Pam Melancon proceeded to install Dee Curry as the 2002-2003, President. Dee then installed the remaining slate of officers for 2002-2003. Pam Melancon will serve as Vice President.

Elizabeth Goebel will continue to serve as Recording/Corresponding Secretary and Connie Miller will serve as Treasurer.

Dee Curry presented a review of "The Illustrated Discovery Journal" by Sarah Band Breathnach.

It was decided that the cultural thread to be woven by the sisters in 2002-2003 will be based on this book.

Each member will create a "visual autobiography of authentic self".

Pledges present at the meeting completed "Pledge Review" successfully.

Refreshments for the evening were provided by the hostess and those in attendance.

The next meeting will be May 23rd at 7 p.m. at the home of Kitty Vaughan.

Goodies from G.G.

It won't be long till we will be eating more fresh fruits. So why not try frying some for next "Special" meal. What a treat!

Fruit Fritter Batter

1 1/4 cup flour, 1 cup white wine, 1 T sugar, 1 t. grated lemon peel 1/4 t. salt, 1 egg white 2 to 3 c. peeled, sliced raw apples, pears or bananas (or any fruit) sifted powdered sugar, oil or shortening for frying.

In medium bowl, combine first ingredients. Beat until smooth cover and refrigerate several hours. Just before using, beat egg white until stiff but not dry. Fold into batter. Pat fruit

Sprinkle fruit with powdered sugar; dip in batter. Drop in hot oil.

Fry until golden brown. Sprinkle with powdered sugar or serve with fruit sauce. Serves 6.

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We, as Queen and King for the Catholic Youth Ministry, would like to thank each and every one of you who made this possible by your support, contributions and/or donations of your time and money with our fundraisers. We could not have done it without you. We would like to extend special thanks to Mr. Mike Nelson, Mr. Ray Melton and Mr. Lloyd Kempf for allowing us the use of the mules and wagon for the Cinco de Mayo parade. Thanks to you we won 1st place for best float. Last, but not least, we would like to thank our parents, family members and friends, who without your help, this would not have been possible.

Thank you,
Kaylynn Perez & Martin Flores



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BISD value certified by Comptroller

Making a Difference
By Taylor Stephenson

The big news this week is that BISD received local value certified by the Comptroller of Public Accounts in Austin. The change from state value will keep state officials from reducing our local school budget by about \$350,000 to \$400,000. The procedure for equalizing appraisals of property in Texas is governed by state law which requires property to be appraised at 95% of actual value. Value is based on sales and appraisals. Agricultural values are much more difficult to define. Well and fence costs, fence depreciation schedules, the cap rate and many complicated fac-

tors go into determining a value. Each county has different conditions, and local officials should determine the valuation of property. It must, however, comply with the statutory 95% requirement. Bill Haenn guided the appeal and was supported by the local officials including our Robert Elledge, extension agent and Border Patrol Chief, Paul Berg. Others provided support and information. Thanks for a job well done!

We will begin re-roofing Jones Elementary, the Central Office, New Gym, Annex and Auditorium, Old Gym and the junior high stadium field house soon. Beldon Roofing of San Antonio submitted the successful proposal. A local committee of board members, administrators and maintenance personnel is working with Beldon to try to get the project underway.

Congratulations to school board officers for the next two years: Tim Ward, President; Henry Lutz, Vice President and Rose Mary Slubar, Secretary. The board works well together to provide our children with the best education possible.

There are 3 weeks of school left. This is a time to talk with children about keeping their priorities focused. What we learn and grades are important factors in the academic world. Monday, teachers worked on vertical curriculum alignment while students had a holiday. The new TAKS tests will be much more difficult than TAAS. Teachers are gearing up for the challenge.

I enjoyed the career day at the Intermediate School (Grades 5 & 6). Presenters included Jill Duncan, Nurse; Adrian Pena, law enforcement; Lynn McCarson, Bank & Trust; Honeybee Gomez, Food Service Manager; Leisha Ashley, Alamo Saddlery; and Damon Stone, College Student. Thanks to those who presented and to the teachers for planning this event.

There was rain in parts of the county this past week. Amounts ranged from 1.1 inches at the Lloyd Lee Davis, Jr. home to .30 at my home at Fort Clark Springs. We're still dry, and parts of the county have had no rain. I believe rain will come our way soon. Have a great week!

Ashabranner takes 4th at state

Juliann Ashabranner, 9th grader, competed in the State Track Meet in Austin May 10th and 11th. Ashabranner placed 4th in the 3200 meter race with a time of 12:12.16.

Final placing for the 3200 meter were 1st Salado, 2nd Woden, 3rd Sundown, 4th Brackett, 5th Sonora, 6th Krum, 7th Frankston and 8th Farmersville.

GT students take trip to bank



Pictured are the 2nd and 3rd graders with Lynn McCarson.

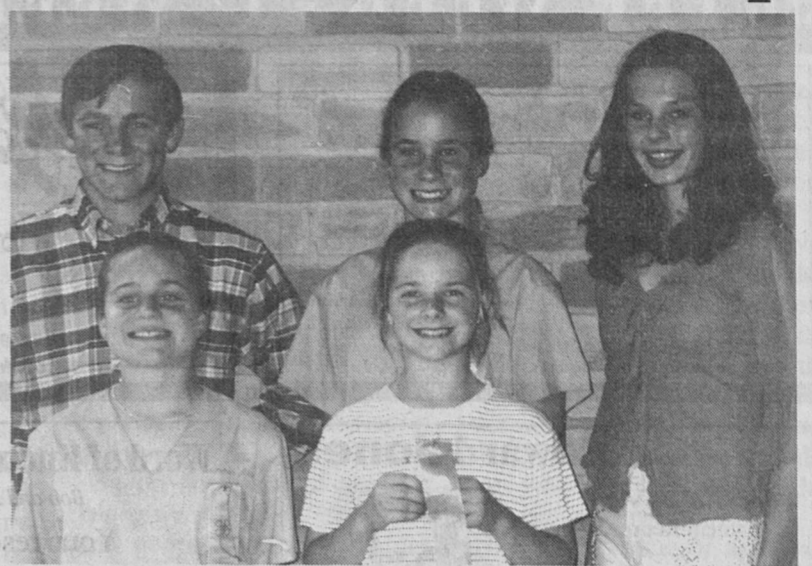


Pictured are the 4th, 5th and 6th graders with Margaret Hall.

Wednesday, May 1, 2002, the Jones Elementary GT Students went on a field trip to the Brackettville Bank & Trust. They were treated with a tour of the facility, by the president of the bank, Mrs. Lynn McCarson. Mrs. Zaneta Daigle and Mr. Jacobo Rodriguez gave an informative presentation to the students.

The presentation was done with a Power Point Program, which the GT students have been working with in the classroom.

District 4-H Roundup



Pictured left to right: (Back row) Beau Watkins, Bailee Allen and Jacquelyn Conoly. (Front row) Summer Allen and Taylor Dunbar. Not pictured Natasha Smith.

On Saturday, May 4, 2002 Kinney County participated in District 10 4-H Roundup in Boerne, Texas.

Representing our county was Beau Watkins, Jacquelyn Conoly, Bailee Allen, Summer Allen, Taylor Dunbar, and Natasha Smith.

Pre-junior, Taylor Dunbar, participated in "Share the Fun" - Poet category. She recited the poem "Sick" and placed first in the division.

Juniors, Summer and Bailee Allen competed in the Horse category presenting a Method Demonstration "As The Worm Turns".

The sisters placed first in their division. Then Junior, Natasha Smith did an illustrated speech, "The Care and Management of Show Rabbits". She received sixth place. Also in the Junior category, "Share the Fun" - Vocal was Jacquelyn Conoly singing Hank Williams' "Lovesick Blues". She placed first.

Senior competitor, Beau Watkins presented a Power Point presentation in the "Farm and Ranch Economics" category titled "How Cedar Impacts the Area Where It Grows". He received second place. District 4-H Roundup provides 4-Hers with learning opportunities and educational experiences that support 4-H project work. They are provided the opportunity to develop leadership skills and compare the skills they have gained with those of other members.

Advancing to the 65th Annual Texas 4-H Roundup in June at Texas A & M University in College Station will be Senior 4-H member, Beau Watkins. We wish him good luck as he prepares to compete at the state level.

Brackett ISD Activity Calendar

Thursday, May 16

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM Field Day, PK-3 GR, 1:00 PM - 3:25 PM Dangers of Body Piercing & Tattoos, 5th GR Field Trip, San Angelo Planetarium

Friday, May 17

8:30 AM - 12:30 PM Field Day, 4-6 GR, 2:00 PM HS School Award Program

Monday, May 20

4:00 PM - 6:00 PM JH Athletic Picnic, EMS Presentations, Jones Elem.

Tuesday, May 21

EMS Presentations, Jones Elem., EOC Exam/Algebra GR 12, REA Presentation, Jones Elem.

Wednesday, May 22

1:00 PM GT Presentations, Meeks Rm., EOC Exam/Biology GR 12

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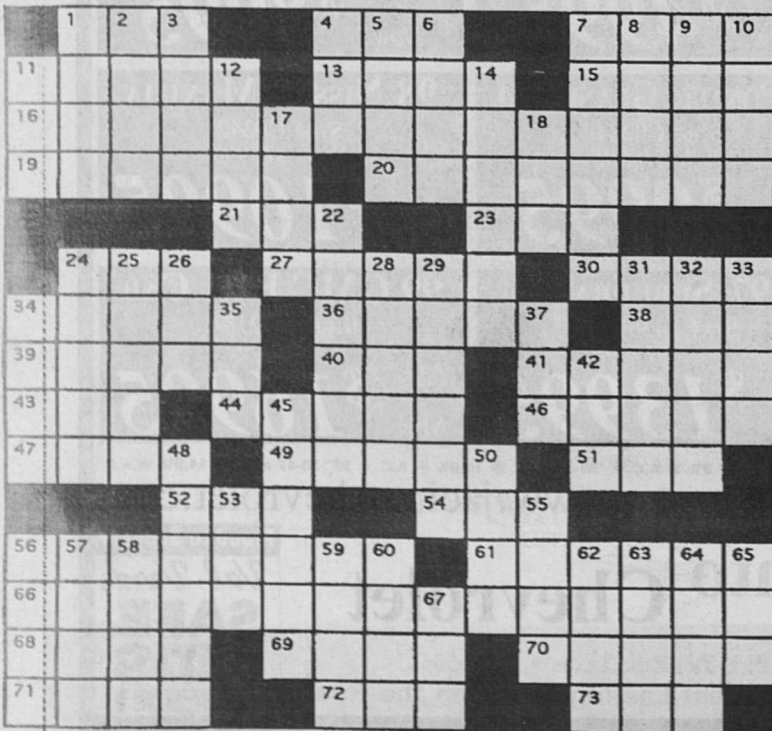
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ACROSS | wards | 5 Solo | sound |
| 1 Uncanny sense | 44 SSS | 6 Campus org. | 35 ___ off; anger |
| 4 Swiss river | 46 Occurrence | 7 Stickers | 37 Mao ___ -tung |
| 7 Painter Salvador | 47 Brown meat quickly | 8 Eager | 42 One of two blond actresses |
| 11 Error's partner, in phrase | 49 Fruit salad ingredient | 9 Add alcohol to | 45 Intelligence: slang |
| 13 Hit show signs | 51 Live | 10 Blue and black liquids | 48 Ones who ascend |
| 15 Actor Richard | 52 Mountain in Crete | 11 Bag-piper's item | 50 St. Philip |
| 16 Late, great film director | 54 Matching pair | 12 Ponce's home | 53 Start of a state capital |
| 18 Falling star | 56 Baked Alaska and Cherries Jubilee | 14 Torah | 55 Nomad's home |
| 20 Farmers' lands | 61 Motive | 17 Get rid of | 56 Martin |
| 21 Beverage | 66 1953 Pulitzer-Prize winner | 18 Fell Fry | 57 Columnist Bombeck |
| 23 Tree dweller | 68 Roman deity | 22 Bottle resident | 58 Stuck-up person |
| 24 The ___ Caballeros | 69 Father | 25 Loos | 59 Under-nourished |
| 27 Shampoo brand | 70 Common-place | 26 Positive response | 60 Parched |
| 30 Lose one's footing | 71 Grabs | 28 Force out | 62 Taj Mahal's site |
| 34 Doctrine | 72 Hair covering | 29 Noosed ropes | 63 Cross the pool |
| 36 Praise | 73 Morns | 31 Friendless one | 64 Dobbin's dinner |
| 38 Numeral | DOWN | 32 ___ ear and out the other | 65 U.S. humorist |
| 39 Flavoring | 1 ___ Stanley Gardner | 33 Chic and jaunty | 67 Ran into |
| 40 Months: abbr. | 2 Separate; screen | 34 Military funeral | |
| 41 Man of the casa | 3 Whittle | | |
| 43 Tip back- | 4 Tree | | |



Trivia Time Answers (c) 2001 DBR Media, Inc.
Green
1. Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious; 2. Milkhall; 3. Fear; 4. Dice; 5. The Pentagon; 6. Horsepower; 7. The plaintiff; 8. Miles Davis; 9. Maya Angelou; 10.

ROARING TWENTIES

In the grid below, twenty words can be found that fit the category for today. Circle each word that you find and list it in the space provided at the right of the grid. Words can be found in all directions—forward, backward, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?

Today's Category: FAMILIAR CHEMICAL ELEMENTS

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| R | Z | I | R | C | O | N | I | U | M | K | H |
| D | A | K | K | N | J | K | E | J | N | J | Y |
| W | D | D | O | D | R | A | D | O | N | D | D |
| E | E | R | I | E | B | O | R | O | N | C | R |
| C | I | D | S | U | L | F | U | R | H | G | O |
| A | I | W | C | E | M | C | D | L | S | O | G |
| R | O | E | K | O | D | G | O | D | W | X | E |
| B | D | C | D | Z | B | R | S | P | G | Y | N |
| O | I | T | I | N | I | A | W | O | P | G | S |
| N | N | G | D | N | D | L | G | K | E | W | |
| D | E | L | E | A | D | D | C | T | L | N | R |
| P | O | T | A | S | S | I | U | M | L | S | C |

- Zirconium
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Trivia Time by Walter Branch

- What was the first 34-letter word uttered in a movie?
- What 54-year-old became the Soviet Union's youngest leader in history?
- What does someone who suffers from sitophobia fear?
- What is the only equipment for playing craps?
- What is the world's largest five-sided building?
- What word did James Watt come up with to describe how much water his steam engine could pump out of a coal mine in a day?
- What is the person who files a suit in court called?
- What jazz trumpeter was called the Prince of Darkness?
- What poet was the first black woman to collect fares on San Francisco streetcars?
- What color is malachite?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| May 16.....Angela Childress | May 19.....Reyes Diaz |
| May 16.....David Samanigo | May 19.....Sam Hutz |
| May 16.....Amanda Ward | May 19.....Maria Alicia Duran |
| May 16.....Malcolm Young | May 19.....William Patenaude |
| May 17.....Daniel Garza | May 20.....Billie Story |
| May 17.....Mistie Herndon | May 21.....Francel Nelson |
| May 17.....Chita Lopez | May 22.....Bo Hagler |
| May 18.....Jania Finkenbinder | May 22.....Ruben Talamantez |
| May 19.....Nelda Archer | May 22.....Demitreus Williams |

HOROSCOPES


by Charles Cooper

- ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Get the facts before jumping to any conclusions concerning a work matter. You'll be glad you did. Later in the week, couples forge a stronger bond.
- LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) This isn't the week to let things slide at work. Pay more attention to tasks at hand. You'll be able to complete them successfully by the end of the week.
- TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) It's best to take a practical approach where work is concerned this week. Travel is likely, but it will be business-oriented. Over the weekend, avoid making impulse purchases.
- SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) You're not at your communicative best this week. This particularly applies to your relationship with your mate. Fortunately, by the weekend, you're both on the same wavelength.
- GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Watch those expenses this week. They could become unmanageable. By week's end, you receive recognition for your work efforts.
- SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Sticking close to home is best this week. Outside social activities just could be too much of a budget-buster. This weekend, spend some time sprucing up your home.
- CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) While you strive to get the bigger picture, don't ignore the details. Dealings with co-workers are best managed with tact. A social engagement could lead to romance.
- CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) You feel the need to seek out some job advice this week. However, that doesn't mean you'll listen. Try to pay attention, even if you don't like what you're hearing.
- LEO** (July 23 to August 22) A household project you're contemplating isn't for a do-it-yourselfer. Call in a professional. This weekend, quality time is spent with family members.
- AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A co-worker rescues a work project that's been in danger of falling apart. Express your gratitude freely. There's no need to harbor any jealousy.
- VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A minor problem arises on the job early in the week. Relax. It all works itself out by week's end, leaving you free to enjoy some leisure time.
- PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) A friend disappoints you somewhat this week. Exercise forgiveness. Remember, no one's perfect - not even you!

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Roaring Twenties Solution.

| | |
|-------------|---------------|
| 1. Boron | 11. Neon |
| 2. Carbon | 12. Nickel |
| 3. Chlorine | 13. Oxygen |
| 4. Cobalt | 14. Potassium |
| 5. Copper | 15. Radium |
| 6. Gold | 16. Radon |
| 7. Hydrogen | 17. Sulfur |
| 8. Iodine | 18. Tin |
| 9. Iron | 19. Zinc |
| 10. Lead | 20. Zirconium |



Combined love *Wear A Smile* Coming of age

First United Methodist Church
By Rev. Ken F. Sellers, Jr.

As I tease with some friends at The Burger and Shake, I often look to the comics section of the San Antonio newspaper to get theological insights for use in Sunday sermons. This week one inspiration comes from a Country and Western song I hear played from time to time - I think the title is "If You Get There Before I Do." It begins as a song about a young couple deciding to elope because of the girl's father's objections to the boy. They decide to meet after chores are done at an old oak tree on the outskirts of town. When the boy arrives there is a note tacked to the tree that reads, "If you get there before I do, don't give up on me. I'll be there when my chores are done. Until then I'll be loving you. Love, Me." Later in the song, the boy, now grown to be a grandfather, is standing in the funeral parlor recalling those words for his grandson and reflecting on how appropriate they still are now that his wife has died. These words were especially meaningful to me during the week prior to Mother's Day. I lost my mother in August of 1982 and very recently my mother-in-law. Both of these women meant a lot to me. Of course, my mother raised me and gave me many of the characteristics and values I now exhibit as a man. She taught me to love words and education. She taught me to be considerate of others. She taught me to believe in myself. My mother-in-law was very important much later in my life, during my call to ordained ministry. When I was struggling to find financing for seminary, she provided the support I needed, asking only that I

continue to love her daughter. She was a real source of affirmation as I grew into the role of pastor/preacher. On Mother's Day I felt the loss of these two saints more than I had until May the 12th, 2002.

The loss of their guidance, their words of encouragement, their unconditional love and their hugs was more real to me than any loss I have yet experienced. Yet - as I preached on Mother's Day I felt the combined love of my two mothers surround me and give me peace. During the sermon I spoke of the hug God can give us if we but close our eyes, focus our thoughts on God rather than this world of pain and struggle, and submit ourselves to his peace. That was when I knew that my two mothers and my God were holding me tight, soothing my fears and bandaging my scrapes and bruises, as when I was a child. It may be hard to conceive that the love of God is greater than the love of a mother or father, but it is. And God's love embraces us regardless of how little we deserve it - just like mom did back when we were rebellious, mischievous youth.

When we were closing our service, holding hands and singing "Shalom" the hands that touched mine brought healing, peace and a sense of safety knowing that God cares for me, watches over me and brings church family close to me so that I never feel alone, lost or beyond hope ever again. Thanks be to the mystery and the majesty of God's love!

Visit us at First United Methodist Church for worship this Sunday at 10:45 am where a loving, healing relationship with God is evident in the relationship with God's children and God's church.

St. Mary Magdalene Church
By Lynn McNew

I recently read a little inspirational gem that I really like. I don't know for sure where it came from, but it sports a happy face and says: A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive it without making poorer those who give. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and it is nature's best antidote for trouble.

Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away.

Waiting by the Phone

By Rev. Brother J
Contributing Writer

I was near their home so I thought I would spend the night with them, (his wife is a real good cook). I arrived just in time for dinner.

After dinner we sat around and visited but as the evening wore on I realized something was wrong. I thought maybe they had a little disagreement or something. I tried to excuse myself and go to bed but they said no, sit and talk to us. Around 11:30, (I could hardly keep my eyes open) his wife told me what was going on. She told me that today was her birthday and their son always called on that day and wished her

Some people are too tired to give a smile. Give them one of yours, for no one needs a smile so much as he who has no more to give. Each time I read that, I leave wearing a smile, with determination to give it away all day long! I hope reading this makes you feel the same way. The world can use lots of smiles.

Father, today let my face smile for You that I might spread Your love to all I meet.

You are welcome to worship with us anytime at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. Sunday, May 19th, the 10:30 Mass will be a special one honoring all the graduating seniors from BHS. God Bless You.

happy birthday unless he was real sick or was in jail. She finally said with tears in her eyes, "Something is wrong because he would have called by now". There was such sadness at breakfast the next morning and I will never forget the sadness in their faces as I left. I think it must be the same way in heaven when God does not hear from us because in Proverbs 15:8 it says he delights in our prayers. In Psalms 91:15 we are told to call upon God. In Isaiah 55:6 we are told to seek. In Psalms 105:3&4 we are told that our hearts will be made glad if we seek (pray to) him. God has given us the privilege of prayer, let us use it. See you in church on Sunday.

A tree of life

St. John's Missionary Church
By Rev. William P. Adams Sr.

Happy is the man that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding;

For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain there of than fine gold.

She is more precious than rubies; and all the things thou canst desire are not to be compared unto her.

Length of days is in her right hand, and in the left hand riches and honor.

Her ways are ways of pleasantness, and all her paths are peace.

She is a tree of life to those who lay hold, upon her, and happy is everyone that retaineth her.

The Lord by wisdom hath founded the earth; by understanding hath he established the heavens. Proverbs 3:13-19

Health

Valuable playtime

Houston - The best toys for encouraging language development in children might just be mom and dad.

"Having a parent read the old-fashioned nursery rhymes with a child, even a small baby, helps develop language skills," said Dr. Sherry Vinson, assistant professor of pediatrics at

Baylor College of Medicine. "What's important is the amount of interactive time the parent spends with the child."

She advises parents to avoid the temptation of using passive toys or videos as a babysitter.

"If you're not able to sit down with the child, offer a toy that is interactive," Vinson said.

Welcome!

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Adult/Youth/Children Discipleship Training 6 p.m.
Evening Service 7 p.m.
Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study



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Gateway Ministries
By Pastor Charolette Corey

"Coming of age" is like a good fruit ripening on the vine. Without the fruit having good soil, good roots, being watered, and having plenty of sunshine, the fruit will not ripen into a piece of fruit worthy to be plucked. It will not bring joy to the partaker. Such is the way of our lives.

We do not come of age just because we get older. There are many people who grew older and still are a bunch of sour grapes or even moldy raisins. Our choices can make the end product of our lives a sweet savor or a bitter stench.

A good fruit will have started off as good seed planted in fertile soil. That soil in our lives is the humble heart, the spirit that is broken by repentance and submitted to God. It is he who plows and breaks up the hard clods in our souls to prepare for the seed. Then the Great Master plants his seed of love and waters it by faith with his word. It is our choice to receive it or reject it.

As we choose to seek his truth and act upon it; as we continue to stand and not be moved by what we see or hear, but only by the word of God; as we refuse to grow weary in well doing but continue to overcome evil with good; as we continue to choose to love, choose to forgive, choose to have faith and not fear, choose to keep our hopes and plans in the Lord whose plans for us are for good

and not for evil, God will bless you with a sweet, sweet spirit and your life will be like a beautiful prayer lifted to his throne to praise and glorify him.

Unlike a mere plant, if ever along your way, you find that you are beginning to "wither" or "stink", you also have the choice of being grafted into the true vine - Jesus Christ. He will redeem the time, renew your mind, heal your soul, and deliver you from the devil and his plans to destroy you.

To truly "come of age" you must choose the things of God over the things of the flesh letting him guide you in all your ways.

This is possible only through the power of his Holy Spirit. You become empowered with his spirit when you accept him as Lord and Savior.

You have the choice to put your life in the hands of the Master and produce good fruit and reap eternal life, or, place your life in the hands of the devil, living just for yourself and the lusts of the flesh and reap eternal damnation.

May your "coming of age" be sweet and not sour. Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

Read the
Brackett News
to find out
what's going on
in and around
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Worship at 10:45 am

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